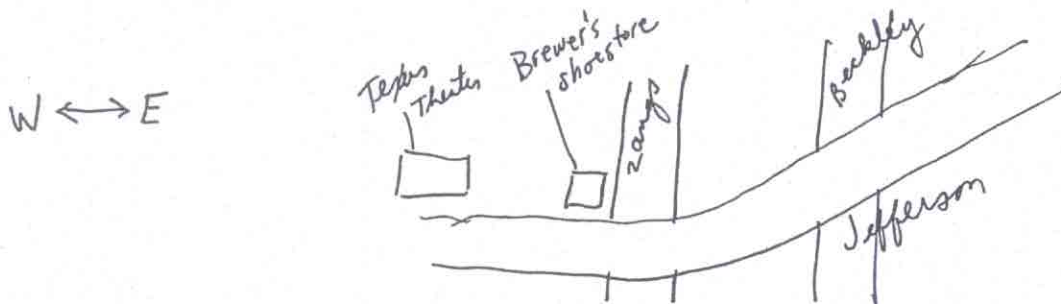


NOTES on testimony of Johnny Calvin Brewer & Julia Postal--3/18/76

Just a quick memo sparked by Belin's persistent reference to Brewer as such a crucial witness. Belin always makes a point to portray Oswald "ducking" into the store, waiting for the sirens to go away and then dashing into the Texas Theater. This is not the way Brewer described it, and there are many puzzling, inconsistent aspects to the story.

First, there is an interesting conflict between Brewer's and Postal's testimony. Brewer said he heard a siren coming down Jefferson, east to west (7H2). The police car then made a U-turn at Zangs and Jefferson and sped of in an easterly direction. As the siren faded away, Oswald looked over his shoulder and walked off toward the theater, west down Jefferson. (7H3)



Julia Postal describes quite a different scene. She was standing out in front of the theater with her boss, John Callahan (NOTE--She says LHO passed right in front of Callahan, who was getting into his car, but he was never called as witness, can find no interviews with.) Postal says Oswald walked by her just as a police car, with siren going, passed her travelling west down Jefferson (3H10). She was not questioned very clearly on this point, and Ball tried to make it seem that she saw Oswald after the police car had passed. However, she does state that "when the sirens went by he (Oswald) had a panicked look on his face, and he ducked in."

So, the scene described by Postal hardly fits the one of Brewer, that Oswald waited till the coast was clear to move out of the front window of the shoe store. From the testimony it is even impossible to tell if there were 2 police cars (one turning at Zangs, the other continuing down Jefferson) or if there was just one and either Brewer or Postal is in error.

It is fascinating to see the REPORT's treatment of this. It notes Brewer's description of the U-turn at Zangs, emphasizing that Oswald waited till the sirens got "fainter" to proceed ~~along~~ along Jefferson. (R178) It then merely notes that Postal "heard police sirens and then saw a man..." Note first that there is no mention of the fact that the sirens heard by Postal were directly in front of her and, second, that the insertion of "then" makes it seem that she saw Oswald after the sirens went away.

As if this is not bad enough, a check of Belin's book reveals that Julia Postal is not mentioned at all, except for two references in the testimony of Brewer. Significantly, her testimony is never quoted by Belin. Belin does quote large portions of Brewer's testimony and inserts at one point that "the police sirens became fainter indicating the police were going the other way," and then goes on to quote Brewer about Oswald continuing down the street. (p. 25)

One real weakness in Brewer's account is that, if Oswald really ducked into the ~~sm~~ store front nervously, and the police car was where he said, isn't it strange the police didn't notice Oswald then and stop him, instead of turning and going away?

Howard Roffman